State of Arizona
Department of Education

Character Education Survey Responses from Arizona Educators

899 Arizona educators responded to an online survey sent by Superintendent Horne in February 2007. Over **730** stated that they use character education in their schools and classrooms! **524** respondents offered comments regarding the positive impacts their students, staff and parents have experienced as a result of character education.

Here are just a few!

"We have had a reduction in discipline referrals. Also, students are exceptionally aware of the six pillars of character, and use positive peer pressure when they witness another child not using good character."

"Students have a better understanding of what it is to be a person of character. They are able to articulate a definition and provide examples. I believe that we have seen a reduction in student offenses related to areas of personal conflict with other students as a result."

"Decrease in referrals; students more involved in seeing the 'big picture", i.e. we all have to be people of good character to have the school climate we want to have at GES; students involved in character building activities, morning announcements about character, character counts quote by student daily over the intercom, etc"

"Students accept more responsibility for their own actions than ever before. Student fighting both verbal and physical has reduced. Students know all the life skills and guidelines. In addition, parents and the community appreciate the fact that we are teaching the students these skills."

"Increased staff morale, decrease in discipline referrals, increased teaching time due to less time disciplining children, increased over all respect felt by staff and students (from a survey at the site level)."

"The most positive from using this program is the language and what I mean by this is the students use the words which are learned when using this program. For example a kinder student ran up to me one day and told me one of his classmates was not showing him any respect. It is rewarding when a student uses the Character Counts in the correct content. I also believe it helps keeping bullying issues down."

"Involvement of students and teachers at all levels in our school system, K-12. We have had Pillar Fridays where each grade level had a different pillar and made their own T-shirts designating the virtue of each pillar; we have "Be a Buddy, not a Bully" campaigns at our Elementary and Middle Schools; students receive "Act of Kindness" coupons which are redeemable, and many other activities which have been initiated as a result of our Character Counts involvement."

"The most positive feedback for our school has been discipline. All of our schools discipline goes back to Character Counts. We really talk about the pillars and show/tell the kids how important these 6 pillars are not just at school but in every day life."

"Raising student awareness of the schools expectations has had positive impact. Before we began the CHARACTER COUNTS!, many students did not have the opportunity to consider the impact of the choices they were making. Since the implementation of CHARACTER COUNTS!, students are beginning to consider what it means to be respectful, responsible, caring, fair and trustworthy citizens. They are beginning to move from discussing positive behavior in the classroom to displaying positive behavior school wide. CHARACTER COUNTS! implementation has introduced positive language into the school.

Character Education in Arizona

1. Do you use character education in your school or classroom?

		Response Total	Response Percent
Yes		732	82%
No		162	18%
	Total Respondents	894	
	(skipped this question)	5	

2. What framework or curriculum do you use?

Total Respondents	524
(skipped this question)	375

3. What has been the most positive impact from this? (please be specific)

Total Respondents	524
(skipped this question)	375

4. If no, why not?

Total Respondents	126
(skipped this question)	773

5. Would you like to be contacted about free character education training provided by the Dept. of Education and Arizona Character Education Foundation?

		Response Total	Response Percent
Yes		398	68%
No		188	32%
	Total Respondents	586	
	(skipped this question)	313	